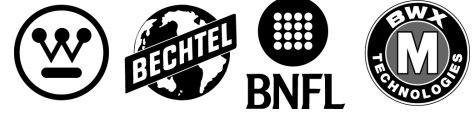


NEWS from

The Savannah River Site



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For immediate release

MAJOR EMERGENCY DRILL TO AFFECT CENTRAL SAVANNAH RIVER AREA

AIKEN, S.C. (April 5) – The Savannah River Site (SRS) and county, state, and federal agencies will combine for a wide-scale radiological emergency preparedness exercise on April 23-25. The exercise is designed to test responses to a potential radiological contamination of the “ingestion pathway” – the term used when radiological contamination may affect crops, gardens, water resources, farm animals and livestock feed.

Numerous emergency response crews and vehicles may be visible in any of the counties surrounding SRS during the three days as part of the exercise; residents need not be alarmed.

On a national basis, the exercise will test the readiness of the Federal Radiological Monitoring and Assessment Center (FRMAC) to respond to an event at SRS. FRMAC supports state and county agencies in responding to events that affect areas outside of SRS. SRS itself will also use this exercise as a regular test of its own emergency response organization.

The triggering event will be a hypothetical earthquake causing a release of radioactive material from SRS.

In addition to the emergency response personnel from SRS and the neighboring counties, participants will include South Carolina’s Department of Health and Environmental Control and South Carolina’s Emergency Management Division, Georgia’s Departments of Natural Resources and of Environmental Protection, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Public Health Service; the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Federal Emergency Management Agency and numerous units of the Department of Energy nationwide.

State and federal personnel will monitor and analyze conditions in the field, based on an exercise scenario, and recommend any protective actions believed necessary.

The exercise is not related to the Sept. 11 attacks, but does test emergency response capabilities that might be needed after some forms of terrorism. The principal purpose of the exercise, however, is to practice the actions that would be needed if radioactive material were released from any nuclear processing, storage, or power facility.

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